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maintaining a large family and giving his children suitable educational advantages—we say that business men showing little regard for the economic self-respect of college professors would indicate much of the danger that Mr. Veblen points out, even if he did not so cogently maintain his main contention that college administration needs something more than “business” ability. *Of course* men write such books because of personal experience. If impulse and emotion do not distort the truth they must make the truth bite like the engraver’s acid.

One citation will suffice to show forth both the demerits and the more substantial merits of Mr. Veblen’s book: “It is to be recalled, however, that this latter-day experience of confirmed incompetence has been gathered under the overshadowing presence of a surreptitiously and irresponsibly autocratic executive, vested with powers of use and abuse, and served by a corps of adroit parliamentarians and lobbyists, ever at hand to divert the faculty’s action from any measure that might promise to have a substantial effect.” Now this indictment is not characteristic of American colleges and universities; but what man of large experience in these matters fails to recognize the main features of Mr. Veblen’s picture in a fair proportion of cases? And after all, Mr. Veblen is attacking dangerous tendencies as well as unworthy situations.

T. P. BAILEY.

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CAN MANKIND SURVIVE? By Morrison I. Swift. Boston: Marshall Jones Company. 1919. Pp. 201.

The publishers praise the author for his “deep sincerity.” Yea, he hath need of some redeeming trait. Listen to his lay: Evolution “was lost by the adoption of permanent principles”; “man organized enmity into a system and made it the iron framework of all his relations”; the “thinkers of each generation were weeded out”; “man’s brain is deformed”; there were only two prevailing types of men in the past, “knaves and slaves”; “the essence of modern democracy, so far as developed, is the increasing right of the slavish mind to be treated politely” (poor Nietzsche, have you come to this?); “intelligence is life . . . but among the civilized great intelligence is an offence”; the

"Hebrews" turned away from this world "and absorbed themselves in the conception of a life beyond the grave" (has the man ever seen the Old Testament?); "the entire work [of all social institutions] may be summed up as compressing all children into the stunted, deforming moulds of their inferior parents"; "Christianity formed itself into a steel sphere about mankind"; "Systematically killing out the starved, stunted, weak, diseased and degenerated, painlessly of course, would therefore be a great moral advance beyond the present flats of human civilization"; we can be saved only by using "spontaneous variations" and cultivating "mutants."

If the author regards himself as a typical man, no wonder he thinks that the intelligent have been killed off! But if he desires the weak and decadent to be slaughtered—but we must not be personal!

T. P. B.

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THE PLACE OF AGRICULTURE IN RECONSTRUCTION. A Study of National Programs of Land Settlement. By James B. Morman, A. M., Assistant Secretary of the Federal Farm Loan Board. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1919. Pp. vii, 374.

"With the idea of formulating a practical program of land settlements in the United States for discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, the author has collected and laid before his reader in detail the solutions to the problem which have been tried or are now being tried in foreign countries, notably Great Britain, France and Canada.

"Analyzing and applying to American circumstances the experiences gained by other peoples, he endeavors to point out certain definite conditions which will make for success, as well as to draw attention to others, already proposed, which can do nothing but result in failure.

"The part that agriculture plays in maintaining national welfare has been discussed, and incidentally the foundations of a stable progressive national policy towards agriculture have been intimated.

"In fact, Mr. Morman offers us here a singularly valuable book, compounded of accurate information, sensible reasoning and a democratic spirit of helpfulness."